

Application No.: 10/731260

Docket No.: CVZ-020

REMARKS

Response to Restriction Requirement

In response to the Restriction Requirement mailed from the United States Patent Office on February 15, 2006, the Applicants' make the election set forth below.

The Examiner has required restriction between the following Examiner-identified inventions in the above-identified application:

Invention I: Claims 1-30;

Invention II: Claims 31-50; and

Invention III: Claims 51-57.

Applicants' hereby elect Group I (Claims 1-30), with traverse as explained more fully below.

Argument

In the interest of speeding prosecution, Applicant has amended independent method claim 31 (upon which claims 32-40 are dependent) and the corresponding independent medium claim 41 (upon which claims 42-50 are dependent) into dependent claims. Claim 31 is now dependent upon independent method claim 1 and claim 41 is now dependent upon independent medium claim 16. All of the claims in group II (31-50) therefore now include the limitations of the underlying independent claims in group I and are therefore based on the same generic claims.

With regard to the claims in group III (claims 51-57), Applicant respectfully traverses the requirement to make an election on the grounds that the species are not patentably distinct. The claims in group III represent the corresponding system claims for the method and medium claims found in Group I. The claim limitations found in independent claim 51 provide the functionality enabling the method and medium claims of group I. Thus, the plurality of MEMS

Application No.: 10/731260

Docket No.: CVZ-020

model components listed in the first limitation of claim 51 are found as a claim element in the first step of claim 1 ("said model including a plurality of components"). The 3D view generator found in the first claim element in claim 51 is present in the first step of claim 10. Similarly the schematic view listed in claim 51 is referenced in the first step of claim 1. The "schematic editor" in the second limitation of claim 51 is used to generate the schematic view referenced in the first, second and third steps of claim 1. Likewise the schematic visualizer in the third limitation of claim 1 is used to generate the 3D view found in the second limitation of claim 1. Claim 51 is the system variant of the method and medium claims 1 and 16 respectively of Group I and Applicant respectfully submits that Group III does not therefore represent a patentably distinct species.

Accordingly, in light of the above, Applicant requests the Examiner consider claims 1-57 as amended for prosecution in the pending application.

Applicants reserve the right to prosecute claims similar in scope to the amended claims in a future application.

Application No.: 10/731260

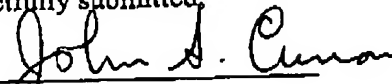
Docket No.: CVZ-020

CONCLUSION

In view of the above, Applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance.

Dated: March 15, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

By 

John S. Curran

Registration No.: 50,445

LAHIVE & COCKFIELD, LLP

28 State Street

Boston, Massachusetts 02109

(617) 227-7400

(617) 742-4214 (Fax)

Attorney/Agent For Applicant